

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 692

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

QMEMBASSY WARSAW 2306

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2129

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XH

SUBJECT: SOVIET RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE

REF STATE 175239

1. EMBASSY HAS NOT DETECTED ANY SIGN THAT CSCE HAS INTRODUCED
ELEMENT OF UNEASINESS IN SOVIET-CZECH RELATIONS.
SOVIETS SHOULD BE SATISFIED WITH RECORD SO FAR. CONCERNING
DOMESTIC ASPECTS OF HELSINKI (AN AREA OF OBVIOUS SOVIET CONCERN),
CZECHS SEEM BENT ON IMPROVING IMAGE WHILE
MAINTAINING STATUS QUO. WITH CONSTANT RECITAL OF STATISTICS
INVOLVING TRANSLATIONS, IMPORTATION OF FILMS
AND TRAVEL, GOVERNMENT WOULD SHOW THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA
COMPLIES WITH HELSINKI TO LETTER AND, THEREFORE, NO
REFORMS ARE NEEDED. CONCERNING FOREIGN POLICY
ASPECTS, GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS RELIGIOUSLY THAT HELSINKI IS
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MILESTONE ON ROAD OF "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN

STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS," AS IF PROVISIONS FOR NON-INTERVENTION, INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS AND SOVERIGN EQUALITY DID NOT APPLY BETWEEN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OR AFFECT BREZHNEV DOCTRINE.

2. AT ECPC, CZECHS SEEMED MORE SOVIET THAN THE SOVIETS. THEY STRESSED BOTH AT CONFERENCE (SEE HUSAK'S SPEECH) AND IN PRESS FOLLOWUP "COMMANDING AUTHORITY OF THE USSR" AND "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM." ONLY DISCORDANT NOET PROVIDED BY APPEARANCE IN RUDE PRAVO OF RATHER BROAD ACCOUNTS,WITHOUT COMMENT, OF DISSIDENT BERLIN SPEECHES BY CEAUSESCU, TITO AND BERLINGUER.

3. WE DOUBT THAT SOVIETS HAVE REASON TO BE DISSATISFIED WITH CZECH PERFORMANCE. NEVERTHELESS, CZECHOSLOVAKIA DID SIGN HELSINKI AND ECPC DOCUMENTS. FACT THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT UNABLE, OR UNWILLING, TO USE THESE DOCUMENTS TO ENLARGE MANEUVER ROOM VIS-A-VIS USSR, DOES NOT PRECULDE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE LEADERS DOING SO.
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